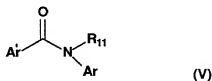


Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof

Abstract

The present invention is directed to substituted nicotinamides and analogs thereof, represented by Formula V:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein:

Ar' and Ar are independently optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl, provided that the ring structure of said optionally substituted heteroaryl comprises not more than two nitrogen atoms; and

R₁₁ is hydrogen; or alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted.

The present invention also relates to the discovery that compounds having Formula V are activators of caspases and inducers of apoptosis. Therefore, the compounds of this invention may be used to induce cell death in a variety of clinical conditions in which uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells occurs.